



## ASK EPA !!

### Questions and Answers

#### about Asbestos and EPA's Investigation

**Q :** What is the status of the Burlington Northern cleanup and the W.R. Grace flyway cleanup next to the Screening Plant?

**A :** Both cleanups are completed to EPA's satisfaction. This means that two more source areas for Libby asbestos have been removed from the community. EPA is awaiting the completion reports from BNSF and W. R. Grace. These documents will be in the EPA Information Center when we receive them.

In addition to these source areas, many lower exposure areas have successfully been cleaned. EPA has completed 160 homes this year and is on target for at least the 170 homes that were targeted. This includes 45 attic/interior cleanups, 54 yard or special use area cleanups, 56 cleanups with both indoor and outdoor components and 5 unique properties requiring partial or total demolition.

Cleanup will stop for the months of December and January and resume in February, 2005.

For more information, please call:

Wendy Thomi at 1-866-457-2690 or  
EPA Information Center at 293-6194

November 29, 2004



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**Q :** What are the results of EPA's post-cleanup sampling?

**A :** EPA will continue to test cleanup effectiveness by sampling homes following cleanup completion. To date the results of this post-cleanup sampling are very encouraging.

Samples were taken 1-12 months after the cleanup while residents went about their usual activities in the home. The samples were from stationary indoor air samplers, dust samples and personal air samplers worn by residents.

Of 109 samples, EPA only detected asbestos in five of them. These five were at very low levels, levels which would pass clearance sampling immediately after a cleanup.

Based on this first set of post-cleanup sampling results, EPA is confident that the indoor cleanups being done are protective. More of this sampling and other sampling scenarios aimed at ensuring protectiveness will continue on an ongoing basis for the duration of the project.

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